General Assembly

Distr.: General
10 January 2002

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 108

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/56/L.27 and Add.1)*]

56/38. Recommendations on support for volunteering

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/17 of 20 November 1997, in which it proclaimed the year 2001 as the International Year of Volunteers, based on Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/44 of 22 July 1997, and its resolution 55/57 of 4 December 2000, in which it requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on ways in which Governments and the United Nations system could support volunteering, and bearing in mind Commission for Social Development resolution 39/2 of 23 February 2001,[1]

Recalling also the outcome document of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world",[2] in which the General Assembly recommended the promotion of the involvement of volunteers in social development, inter alia, by encouraging Governments, taking into account the views of all actors, to develop comprehensive strategies and programmes by raising public awareness about the value and opportunities of volunteerism and by facilitating an enabling environment for individuals and other actors of civil society to engage in voluntary activities, and the private sector to support such activities,

Recalling further paragraphs 73 and 179 (*f*) of the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women,[3] paragraph 42 of the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium adopted at the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in June 2001,[4] and paragraphs 32 (i) (*b*) and 41 (ii) (*a*) of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 6* and corrigendum (E/2001/26 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. E.
[2] See resolution S-24/2, annex.
[3] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.
[4] See resolution S-25/2, annex.

2010 adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in May 2001,[5]

Recognizing the valuable contribution of volunteering, including traditional forms of mutual aid and self-help, formal service delivery and other forms of civic participation, to economic and social development, benefiting society at large, communities and the individual volunteer,

Recognizing also that volunteerism is an important component of any strategy aimed at, inter alia, such areas as poverty reduction, sustainable development, health, disaster prevention and management and social integration and, in particular, overcoming social exclusion and discrimination,

Recognizing further the existing contribution of the organizations of the United Nations system to supporting volunteering, including the work of United Nations Volunteers around the world, by promoting volunteerism, including by placing volunteers,

Aware of the need to approach voluntary activities strategically as a means of enhancing resources, addressing global issues and improving the quality of life for everyone,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on support for volunteering;[6]

2. *Also welcomes* the work of the United Nations Volunteers as the focal point for the International Year of Volunteers in supporting national International Year of Volunteers committees and in collecting and disseminating information on the Year, including through its web site;[7]

3. *Expresses its appreciation* regarding the support to the International Year of Volunteers extended by States, international organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, especially at the local, national and regional levels;

4. *Commends* the ongoing contributions of all volunteers to society, including in extraordinary conditions such as disasters;

5. *Encourages* all people to become more engaged in voluntary activities;

6. *Lays down* in the annex to the present resolution the recommendations on ways in which Governments and the United Nations system could support volunteering;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take specific measures, in particular within the mandates of the United Nations Volunteers and the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, to disseminate widely the present resolution and the annex;

8. *Calls upon* all Governments and organizations of the United Nations system to give these recommendations due consideration;

9. *Decides* that on 5 December 2002, International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development, two plenary meetings at the fifty-seventh

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[5] A/CONF.191/11.
[6] A/56/288.
[7] www.iyv2001.org.

session of the General Assembly shall be devoted to the outcome of the International Year of Volunteers and its follow-up under the agenda item entitled "Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family";

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in his report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on the outcome of the International Year of Volunteers and its follow up, to include proposals for an integrated and coordinated follow-up, to be pursued in the relevant parts of the United Nations system, as well as on cross-cutting issues, building on his report to the Assembly at the present session and taking into account the present resolution, the discussions held during the present session and other relevant contributions.

76th plenary meeting
5 December 2001

Annex

Recommendations on ways in which Governments and the United Nations system could support volunteering

I. General considerations

1. In these recommendations, the terms volunteering, volunteerism and voluntary activities refer to a wide range of activities, including traditional forms of mutual aid and self-help, formal service delivery and other forms of civic participation, undertaken of free will, for the general public good and where monetary reward is not the principal motivating factor.

2. Actions by Governments and the United Nations system are mutually reinforcing but are treated separately below for the sake of clarity.

3. There is not one universal model of best practice, since what works well in one country may not work in another with very different cultures and traditions.

4. Support for voluntary activities does not imply support for government downsizing or for replacing paid employment.

5. It is not just targeted measures that have an impact on volunteering; general social and economic policy measures can also influence citizens' opportunities and willingness to volunteer.

6. Neglecting to factor volunteering into the design and implementation of policies could entail the risk of overlooking a valuable asset and undermine traditions of cooperation that bind communities together.

7. It is important to ensure that opportunities for volunteering in all sectors are open both to women and men, given their different levels of participation in different areas, and recognizing the potential positive effect of volunteering on the empowerment of women.

II. Government support

1. It is recommended that Governments further support voluntary activities by creating a favourable environment, including through the following policies and measures, and taking into account the local cultural context.

(a) Increasing public awareness of the vital contribution of volunteerism to the social and economic functioning of their communities through, inter alia, public information activities and public events

(i) Highlight the contribution of volunteering; organize briefings and seminars for policy makers and the media. Official papers on the status of volunteering and the issues that need to be addressed can be published and widely disseminated. High-profile events and campaigns can be organized on national days and on International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development on 5 December. Negative stereotyping of volunteers can be challenged. The promotion of volunteering can be achieved through special programmes and public service announcements or by joint initiatives such as award schemes;

(ii) Encourage the media to play a supportive role in public awareness-raising activities;

(iii) Disseminate the results of studies and surveys on the contribution of volunteerism, where they exist, through the media, schools, non-governmental organizations and other channels.

(b) Taking general measures concerning encouragement and facilitation, preparation, training and recognition of volunteers

(i) Provide, in a way complementary to the support from other sources, an adequate human and physical infrastructure for volunteering. This could include, inter alia, awareness-raising campaigns, development of a volunteer centre infrastructure, establishment of focal points or the use of pilot schemes and the promotion of online volunteering. Specific campaigns in the area of, for example, mass immunization, literacy, or low-cost housing, could include budgetary provision for the encouragement and facilitation, orientation and training, monitoring and recognition of volunteers;

(ii) Facilitate the establishment and functioning of volunteer centres, which provide a valuable stimulus to formal service volunteering through advocacy, monitoring and encouraging new initiatives. National volunteer centres provide effective leadership in the formal volunteer movement, while regional and local centres ensure linkages with the grass-roots communities and organizations. Legal and fiscal frameworks are important factors in the sustainability of such centres and financial support may also be desirable;

(iii) Provide or facilitate specialized training and the formation of professional volunteer managers and trainers in the area of formal service volunteering, including by introducing formal credentials and standards;

(iv) Encourage public sector workers to volunteer, for instance by facilitating measures, recognition, career enhancement incentives and the establishment of a dedicated special unit. This sets a positive example for society and helps to strengthen the sense of collective responsibility.

(c) Enabling fiscal, legislative and other frameworks, including for community-based organizations and not-for-profit organizations engaged in volunteering

(i) Introduce enabling legislation. The goal is to encourage or inspire citizens to volunteer but allow the choice to rest with the individual or organization; it can also facilitate employee volunteering. It can provide tax

incentives and subsidies for organizations, as well as coverage and protection against risks, in a way fitting the particular society;

(ii) Facilitate partnership-building around volunteer-based activities of civil society, including arrangements for joint planning, implementation and monitoring. This could incorporate employee volunteer activities of the private sector.

(d) Encouraging and undertaking research in the various aspects of volunteerism and its impact on society

(i) Ensure that consideration of the issues regarding volunteering is based on a sound appreciation and analysis of the parameters, profile and trends of volunteering in the particular country context. Studies on volunteering can be undertaken by independent public policy research and/or academic institutions. Governments can also initiate research themselves, in partnership with other stakeholders;

(ii) Establish the economic value of volunteering to help to highlight one important aspect of its overall contribution to society and thereby assist in the development of informed policies which take into account the different levels of participation of women and men, youth and older people in different fields of volunteering.

(e) Ensuring citizens' access to information on opportunities for volunteering

(i) Facilitate the establishment of national databases on volunteer opportunities in collaboration with community-based organizations and not-for-profit organizations;

(ii) Disseminate information through the media, schools, and other channels with particular attention given to ensuring that information is accessible also to disadvantaged segments of the population. Encourage media companies to support and expand the concept of pro bono public service announcements on behalf of volunteer-based organizations and activities.

(f) Addressing the possible impact of general social and economic policy measures upon citizens' opportunities and willingness to volunteer

(i) Take into account the possible impact of general social and economic policy upon citizens' opportunities to volunteer. Such a "volunteer check" could pertain to measures related to labour, for example, such as the length of the work week and the age of retirement, which have an impact on the profile of volunteering. Legal and fiscal measures could also be reviewed to assess whether they impinge negatively on the status of volunteer-involving organizations, including issues related to juridical status, rights to associational activities, and resource mobilization. Subsequently, legal and administrative hindrances to volunteering, where they exist, can be reduced;

(ii) Give due weight to local ownership and citizen participation, to bring public services closer to communities and to open space for greater citizen engagement expressed through channels such as parental involvement in schools and community involvement in natural resource management;

(iii) Recognize that transport, communication and other infrastructure, such as public spaces, enhance the capacity of people to organize for voluntary activities. This is especially true of geographically dispersed populations and

of people living in poverty, as well as older persons and people with disabilities. It is desirable that the impact of such infrastructure on levels of volunteering be factored into the planning process.

(g) Integrating volunteerism into national development planning, recognizing the potential contribution of volunteerism to the achievement of sustainable development goals

(i) Extend the notion of volunteerism as an additional valuable component of national development planning to development cooperation policy. Recognizing and building strategically on rich, local traditions of voluntary self-help and mutual aid can open the way to building up a new constituency in support of development efforts. Forging a link in the mind of the general public in countries providing development assistance between domestic volunteering in those countries and volunteering in countries receiving assistance can also help enlist public support for development cooperation.

(h) Participation of all population groups

(i) Consider all means available for more people to become involved in voluntary activities and to be drawn from a broader cross-section of society, including youth, older persons and people with disabilities and persons belonging to minorities, targeting opportunities for voluntary activities to facilitate the active participation of those groups which have little or no access to the benefits of engaging in volunteering;

(ii) Promote volunteering within educational establishments and youth services; develop specific programmes to encourage youth volunteering; put in place systems to recognize and accredit volunteering by youth; and work with the media to present an attractive image of volunteering. This can have a significant impact on the level of youth participation and constitute a sound investment in a country's human resources.

III. Support by the United Nations system

1. It is recommended that the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, further support voluntary activities by creating a favourable environment, including through:

(a) Awareness-raising

(i) Raise awareness internally and with their partners as regards the role of volunteerism in the various areas in which they are active and can sensitize their constituencies as to the implications in terms of activities undertaken. At the political level, strategically manage and support volunteering and incorporate it into the agenda of their meetings;

(ii) Undertake research and disseminate information about the cross-cutting link between volunteerism and major global concerns, including through technical and popular publications, workshops and Internet sites. This would serve also to extend recognition to volunteers and their organizations, which could be complemented by awards and other measures, including raising the profile of International Volunteer Day.

(b) Recognition of the contributions of volunteers

(i) Enhance and expand the current practice of extending special recognition to volunteers and volunteer-involving organizations across the United Nations system.

(c) Involving volunteers in their programmes, interlinking with national initiatives

(i) Include volunteers in their activities, supporting, inter alia, the establishment of volunteer schemes to address a range of global concerns. Where they exist, national and local volunteer centres could benefit substantially from the specialized expertise and networks of the United Nations system;

(ii) Actively encourage staff of the United Nations system to volunteer, utilizing their special skills and experiences.

(d) Long-term planning for the enhancement of social capital by including all segments of society in volunteering

(i) Make a strategic choice for the involvement of all segments of society, including youth, older persons and people with disabilities and persons belonging to minorities, targeting opportunities for voluntary activities to facilitate the participation of those groups that have little or no access to the benefits of engaging in volunteering. In this way, building on societal norms and networks will enhance the social capital of the society concerned, strengthen its capacity for development and have a lasting impact on its well-being.

(e) Assisting in building national capacities, including in the field of training

(i) Assist countries, upon request, in building national capacities, including in the field of training, and further support Governments in their actions to promote volunteerism as a strategic tool to enhance economic and social development;

(ii) Recognize the continuing role of the United Nations Volunteers as the volunteer arm of the United Nations system, placing volunteers in development and humanitarian programmes and promoting online volunteering. Build on the acquired experience of the United Nations Volunteers in enhancing the recognition, facilitation, networking and promotion of volunteering, deriving from its role as focal point for the International Year of Volunteers.

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10 January 2002

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 21 (g)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/56/L.25/Rev.2 and Add.1)]

56/39. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Community of Central African States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/22 of 10 November 2000 and 55/161 of 12 December 2000 on cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Community of Central African States,

Bearing in mind the charter establishing the Economic Community of Central African States, by which the Central African countries have agreed to work for the economic development of their subregion, to promote economic cooperation and to establish a Common Market of Central Africa,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted on 8 September 2000 by the heads of State and Government at the Millennium Summit of the United Nations,[1] and especially chapter VII thereof,

Noting that, at the ninth regular session of the Economic Community of Central African States, held in Malabo on 24 June 1999, the heads of State and Government of the member States decided to resume the activities of the Community by providing it with sufficient financial and human resources to enable it to become a real tool for the integration of their economies and to foster the development of cooperation between their peoples, with the ultimate aim of making it one of the five pillars of the African Economic Community and of helping Central Africa to meet the challenges of globalization,

Bearing in mind the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa,[2]

Welcoming the establishment of the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa with a view to creating a climate of peace and security in the subregion and strengthening the rule of law essential to its development,

Welcoming also the launching of the activities of the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa, in accordance with the

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[1] See resolution 55/2.

[2] A/52/871-S/1998/318.

recommendations of the General Assembly in its resolutions 53/78 A of 4 December 1998 and 54/55 A of 1 December 1999, with a view to strengthening democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law in the subregion,

Commending the States members of the Economic Community of Central African States for their undertaking to strengthen arrangements for cooperation within the Community,

Noting that, owing to the conflicts, loss of human lives and destruction of the economic and social infrastructure in Central Africa, it is essential to continue and strengthen the recovery programmes in order to restart the economy of the countries of the subregion,

Noting with deep concern the danger of an increase in poverty, in particular in rural areas, due to the conflicts, loss of human lives and destruction of the economic and social infrastructure,

Stressing the need for continued and strengthened recovery programmes in order to restart the economy of the countries of the subregion,

Welcoming the contribution made by the United Nations system to supplement the efforts made at the national and subregional levels with a view to promoting the process of democratization, recovery and development in Central Africa,

Aware of the opportunities and challenges which may result from the process of globalization and liberalization for the economies of the countries of the subregion,

Noting with satisfaction the measures taken by the Economic Community of Central African States to combat the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS),

Noting the important contribution of women in the development process,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Community of Central African States;[1]

2. *Commends* those States Members of the United Nations and United Nations organs, organizations and agencies which have maintained or strengthened their cooperation with the Economic Community of Central African States or have begun to cooperate with it with a view to achieving peace, security and development;

3. *Invites* those States Members of the United Nations and United Nations organs, organizations and agencies which have not yet established contact or relations with the Economic Community of Central African States to consider doing so;

4. *Welcomes* the financial, technical and material support given to the Economic Community of Central African States by the international community;

5. *Emphasizes* the importance of appropriate cooperation between the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, and the Economic Community of Central African States;

6. *Once again requests* the international community to consider seriously increases in its financial, technical and material support to the Economic

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[1] A/56/301.

Community of Central African States to enable it to implement fully its programme of action and to respond to the needs of the subregion for reconstruction and recovery;

7. *Urges* all Member States and the international community to contribute to the efforts of the Economic Community of Central African States to achieve economic integration and development, promote democracy and human rights and consolidate peace and security in Central Africa and to implement the goals, targets and commitment of the United Nations conferences and the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] in particular, to strengthen the role of women in the development process;

8. *Welcomes* the reforms which the Economic Community of Central African States is carrying out, in particular the implementation of its programme of action, so that it may be in a better position to tackle the problems of cooperation and regional integration;

9. *Urges* the international community and the United Nations agencies to continue to provide those countries of the Economic Community of Central African States in which a process of national reconstruction is taking place with appropriate assistance to consolidate their efforts towards democratization and the consolidation of the rule of law and to support their national development programmes;

10. *Declares itself convinced* of the importance of well-conceived global development strategies in order to avoid conflicts and disturbances and aware of the value of international cooperation and efforts to restore and maintain peace, and emphasizes that the international community should continue to help those countries which receive refugees to meet the resulting economic, social, humanitarian and environmental challenges;

11. *Urges* the United Nations and the international community to help to strengthen the means existing in the region to ensure that the Economic Community of Central African States has the necessary capacity with regard to prevention, monitoring, early warning and peacekeeping operations;

12. *Invites* the international community to consider supporting the creation of special economic zones and development corridors in the Economic Community of Central African States, with the active participation of the private sector;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to enhance contacts with the Economic Community of Central African States, with a view to encouraging and harmonizing cooperation between the United Nations and the Community;

14. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.

80th plenary meeting
7 December 2001

General Assembly

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Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 21 (*e*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/56/L.26 and Add.1)*]

56/40. Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States,[1]

Recalling article 3 of the Pact of the League of Arab States,[2] which entrusts the Council of the League with the function of determining the means whereby the League will collaborate with the international organizations which may be created in the future to guarantee peace and security and organize economic and social relations,

Noting the desire of both organizations to consolidate, develop and enhance further the ties existing between them in the political, economic, social, humanitarian, cultural, technical and administrative fields,

Taking into account the report of the Secretary-General entitled "An Agenda for Peace",[3] in particular section VII, concerning cooperation with regional arrangements and organizations, and the "Supplement to An Agenda for Peace",[4]

Convinced of the need for more efficient and coordinated utilization of available economic and financial resources in order to promote the common objectives of the two organizations,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Commends* the continued efforts of the League of Arab States to promote multilateral cooperation among Arab States, and requests the United Nations system to continue to lend its support;

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[1] A/56/474.
[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 70, No. 241.
[3] A/47/277-S/24111.
[4] A/50/60-S/1995/1.

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for the follow-up action taken by him to implement the proposals adopted at the meetings between the representatives of the secretariats of the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations, including the general meeting on cooperation between the United Nations system and the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations held in Vienna, from 17 to 19 July 2001;

4. *Requests* the Secretariat of the United Nations and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States, within their respective fields of competence, to intensify further their cooperation for the realization of the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, the strengthening of international peace and security, economic and social development, disarmament, decolonization, self-determination and the eradication of all forms of racism and racial discrimination;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and other organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations in order to enhance their capacity to serve the mutual interests and objectives of the two organizations in the political, economic, social, humanitarian, cultural and administrative fields;

6. *Calls upon* the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system:

(*a*) To continue to cooperate with the Secretary-General and among themselves, as well as with the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations, in the follow-up of multilateral proposals aimed at strengthening and expanding cooperation in all fields between the United Nations system and the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations;

(*b*) To strengthen the capacity of the League of Arab States and of its institutions and specialized organizations to benefit from globalization and information technology and to meet the development challenges of the new millennium;

(*c*) To step up cooperation and coordination with the specialized organizations of the League of Arab States in the organization of seminars and training courses and in the preparation of studies;

(*d*) To maintain and increase contacts and improve the mechanism of consultation with the counterpart programmes, organizations and agencies concerned regarding projects and programmes in order to facilitate their implementation;

(*e*) To participate whenever possible with organizations and institutions of the League of Arab States in the execution and implementation of development projects in the Arab region;

(*f*) To inform the Secretary-General, not later than 30 June 2002, of the progress made in their cooperation with the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations and, in particular, of the follow-up action taken on the multilateral and bilateral proposals adopted at the previous meetings between the two organizations;

7. *Also calls upon* the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to increase their cooperation with the

League of Arab States and its specialized organizations in the priority sectors of energy, rural development, desertification and green belts, training and vocational education, technology, environment and information and documentation;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in cooperation with the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, to encourage periodic consultation between representatives of the Secretariat of the United Nations and of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States in order to review and strengthen coordination mechanisms with a view to accelerating implementation of, and follow-up action on, the multilateral projects, proposals and recommendations adopted at the meetings between the two organizations;

9. *Recommends* that the United Nations and all organizations of the United Nations system make the greatest possible use of Arab institutions and technical expertise in projects undertaken in the Arab region;

10. *Reaffirms* that, in order to enhance cooperation and for the purpose of the review and appraisal of progress, a general meeting between representatives of the United Nations system and the League of Arab States should be held once every two years and that joint inter-agency sectoral meetings should also be convened on a biennial basis to address priority areas of major importance to the development of the Arab States, on the basis of agreement between the United Nations system and the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations;

11. *Recommends* that a sectoral meeting between the United Nations and the League of Arab States be held at the headquarters of the League of Arab States in Cairo during 2002 on the use of information technology in development;

12. *Also recommends* that the next general meeting on cooperation between the representatives of the secretariats of organizations of the United Nations system and of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations be held during 2003;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the sub-item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States".

80th plenary meeting
7 December 2001

General Assembly

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Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 21 (*m*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/56/L.29 and Add.1)*]

56/41. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Pacific Islands Forum

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/1 of 17 October 1994, by which it granted observer status to the South Pacific Forum,

Taking note of the communiqué of the thirtieth meeting of the Pacific Islands Forum, held in Koror from 3 to 5 October 1999, which, inter alia, agreed to change the name of the organization from the "South Pacific Forum" to the "Pacific Islands Forum",

Recalling that one of the purposes of the United Nations is to achieve international cooperation in addressing international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character,

Bearing in mind that one of the purposes of the Pacific Islands Forum, established in 1971, is to promote regional cooperation among its members through trade, investment, economic development and political and international affairs,

Welcoming the ongoing efforts towards closer cooperation between the United Nations and the Pacific Islands Forum,

Bearing in mind the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations on the existence of regional arrangements or agencies for dealing with such matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security as are appropriate for regional action and other activities consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Welcoming the assistance given by the United Nations towards the maintenance of peace and security in the Pacific Islands Forum region,

Welcoming also the fact that in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, heads of State and Government resolved to address the special needs of small island developing States by implementing the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small

Island Developing States[1] and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly,[2]

Taking note of the communiqué of the thirty-second meeting of the Pacific Islands Forum, held in Yaren from 16 to 18 August 2001,[3]

Affirming the need to strengthen the cooperation that already exists between entities of the United Nations system and the Pacific Islands Forum in the areas of economic and social development, as well as in political and humanitarian affairs,

Mindful of the need for the coordinated utilization of available resources to promote the common objectives of the two organizations,

1. *Takes note* of the decision of the heads of Government of the Pacific Islands Forum on the pursuit of a closer and cooperative relationship between the United Nations and the Pacific Islands Forum;

2. *Invites* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to take the necessary measures, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the Pacific Islands Forum, to promote and expand cooperation and coordination between the two secretariats in order to increase the capacity of the organizations to attain their common objectives;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the Pacific Islands Forum, to promote, as a matter of priority, meetings between their representatives for consultations on policies, projects and procedures that will facilitate, broaden and, if necessary, formalize, cooperation and coordination between the two organizations;

4. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the Pacific Islands Forum, to assist in the development of long-term peace-building programmes to address new security threats in the Pacific Islands Forum region;

5. *Urges* specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to cooperate with the Secretary-General of the United Nations in order to initiate, maintain and increase consultations and programmes with the Pacific Islands Forum and its associated institutions in the attainment of their objectives;

6. *Invites* initiatives from Member States to assist in the cooperation efforts between the United Nations and the Pacific Islands Forum;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Pacific Islands Forum".

80th plenary meeting
7 December 2001

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[1] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] See resolution S-22/2.

[3] See A/56/388.

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Agenda item 21 (*l*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/56/L.30)*]

56/42. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/283 of 7 September 2001, in which it approved the Agreement concerning the Relationship between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, and the decision of 17 May 2001 of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction to approve the Agreement,[1]

Having received the annual report for 2000 of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons on the implementation of the Convention,[2]

1. *Welcomes* the entry into force of the Agreement concerning the Relationship between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons;

2. *Takes note* of the annual report for 2000 of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons submitted by its Director-General on its behalf;[2]

3. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the sub-item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons".

80th plenary meeting
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[1] See A/55/988.
[2] See A/56/490.

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18 January 2002

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 21 (c)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/56/L.31 and Add.1)*]

56/43. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Agreement between the Council of Europe and the Secretariat of the United Nations signed on 15 December 1951 and the Arrangement on Cooperation and Liaison between the secretariats of the United Nations and the Council of Europe of 19 November 1971,

Acknowledging the contribution of the Council of Europe to the protection and strengthening of democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms and the rule of law on the European continent, including its activities against racism and intolerance, the promotion of gender equality, social development and a common cultural heritage,

Acknowledging also that, with its significant expertise in the field of human rights, democratic institutions and the rule of law, the Council of Europe is contributing to conflict prevention, confidence-building and long-term post-conflict peace-building through political, legal and institutional reform,

Stressing the importance of adherence to the standards and principles of the Council of Europe and its contribution to the solution of conflicts throughout the whole of Europe,

Acknowledging the contribution of the Council of Europe to the development of international law, inter alia, international criminal law,

Noting the increasing openness of the Council of Europe, through its legal instruments, to the participation of States of other regions,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the further improvement of cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and its agencies and the Council of Europe, both at the level of headquarters and in the field;

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[1] A/56/302.

3. *Welcomes* the increasingly close cooperation between the Council of Europe, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

4. *Welcomes also* the efforts of the Council of Europe to assist States in the ratification and implementation of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,[2] in particular the most recent meeting, held in Strasbourg, France, on 13 and 14 September 2001;

5. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Council of Europe for its contribution to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 7 September 2001;

6. *Welcomes* the contribution of the Council of Europe to the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on children, to be held in 2002;

7. *Commends strongly* the contribution of the Council of Europe to international action against terrorism, as defined by the Committee of Ministers of the Council in the conclusions of its session of 7 and 8 November 2001 in Strasbourg, taking into account Security Council resolutions 1368 (2001) of 12 September 2001 and 1373 (2001) of 28 September 2001, including the intensification of legal cooperation to combat terrorism;

8. *Welcomes* the participation of the Council of Europe in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999, in its cooperation with the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo, notably with regard to the reform of the judiciary, the promotion and protection of human rights, including the rights of minorities, property rights, population registration, childhood and youth programmes, education policies and the protection and restoration of cultural heritage;

9. *Commends* the role of the Council of Europe in the capacity-building programme of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo, especially with regard to the electoral process in preparation for the Kosovo Assembly elections on 17 November 2001;

10. *Welcomes* the activities of the Council of Europe aimed at fulfilling the role assigned to it, under the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina,[3] with regard to the protection and promotion of human rights, and judicial and prison reform;

11. *Welcomes also* the major contribution of the Council of Europe to the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, launched at the initiative of the European Union, and to the development of regional projects to support its aims;

12. *Welcomes further* the active role of the Council of Europe in the tripartite meetings between the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Council of Europe;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue exploring, with the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers and the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe,

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[2] A/CONF.183/9.

[3] See A/50/790-S/1995/999.

possibilities for further enhancement of cooperation, information exchange and coordination between the United Nations and the Council of Europe;

14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the sub-item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe", and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a report on cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe in implementation of the present resolution.

80th plenary meeting
7 December 2001

United Nations A/RES/56/44

General Assembly

Distr.: General
18 January 2002

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 21 (*h*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/56/L.32)*]

56/44. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/2 of 13 October 1993, by which it granted observer status to the Economic Cooperation Organization,

Recalling also the resolutions previously adopted by the General Assembly on cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization, and inviting various specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system and relevant international financial institutions to join in their efforts towards implementation of economic programmes and projects of the Economic Cooperation Organization,

Bearing in mind the progress attained by the Economic Cooperation Organization both in its reorganization endeavours and in launching and implementing various regional development projects and programmes over the past decade,

Welcoming the endeavours of the Economic Cooperation Organization in regard to consolidating its ties with the United Nations system and with relevant international and regional organizations towards the furtherance of its objectives,

Recalling that one of the main objectives of the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization is to promote international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character,

Expressing grave concern at the prevalent drought and its devastating impact on the socio-economic situation of some States members of the Economic Cooperation Organization,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 55/42 of 21 November 2000,[1] and expresses satisfaction at the enhanced pace of mutually beneficial interaction between the two organizations;

[1] A/56/122.

operations in the region of the Economic Cooperation Organization and the interconnection and parallel functioning of power systems in the region;

10. *Also welcomes* the efforts of the States members of the Economic Cooperation Organization in opening international passenger traffic and the launching of a demonstration container train on the Almaty-Tashkent-Tehran-Istanbul route of the Trans-Asian Railway main line;

11. *Appreciates* the fact that General Assembly resolution 55/181 of 20 December 2000, on the transit environment in landlocked States in Central Asia and their transit developing neighbours, has implications for the whole region of the Economic Cooperation Organization;

12. *Welcomes* the holding in Tehran in June 2001 of a joint Economic Cooperation Organization and United Nations Industrial Development Organization training course on technology management and technology transfer negotiations, which will enhance cooperation among the States members of the Economic Cooperation Organization in industry, particularly in the development of small and medium-sized enterprises;

13. *Notes* the increasing problem of the production, transit and abuse of narcotic drugs and their ill effects in the region of the Economic Cooperation Organization, notes with appreciation the commencement of phase II of the joint project of the Economic Cooperation Organization and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme on the Drug Control Coordination Unit established in the secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization in July 1999, and calls upon the other international and regional organizations to assist, as appropriate, the Economic Cooperation Organization in its efforts against the drug menace in the region;

14. *Appreciates* the cooperation of the Economic Cooperation Organization with the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the Secretariat in jointly organizing the regional seminar on the fight against supranational organized crime;

15. *Notes with satisfaction* the expansion of cultural ties in the region under the auspices of the Cultural Institute of the Economic Cooperation Organization, and supports the endeavours to promote the rich cultural and literary heritage of the region through the launching of appropriate projects and programmes, with possible assistance from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other relevant entities;

16. *Also notes with satisfaction* the efforts of the States members of the Economic Cooperation Organization in the field of science and technology for the development of the region and endeavours in this regard, including the establishment of the Science Foundation of the Economic Cooperation Organization;

17. *Accentuates* the significance of environmental issues, such as air and water pollution, in the region of the Economic Cooperation Organization, and calls upon the relevant United Nations bodies to cooperate, as appropriate, with the Economic Cooperation Organization to implement joint plans and projects to improve the situation in the region;

18. *Invites* the United Nations system, its relevant bodies and the international community to continue to provide technical assistance, as appropriate, to the States members of the Economic Cooperation Organization and its secretariat in strengthening their early warning systems, preparedness, capacity for timely

response and rehabilitation, with a view to reducing human casualties and mitigating the socio-economic impact of natural disasters;

19. *Expresses its appreciation* for the efforts of the Economic Cooperation Organization in the implementation of the United Nations programmes for the development of transit transport facilities in the landlocked countries of the region;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

21. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the sub-item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization".

80th plenary meeting
7 December 2001

General Assembly

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18 January 2002

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 21 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/56/L.34 and Add.1)*]

56/45. Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 33/18 of 10 November 1978, 50/3 of 16 October 1995, 52/2 of 17 October 1997 and 54/25 of 15 November 1999, as well as its decision 53/453 of 18 December 1998,

Recalling also the Articles of the Charter of the United Nations which encourage the promotion of the purposes and principles of the United Nations through regional cooperation,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

Noting the desire of the two organizations to consolidate, develop and tighten the ties that exist between them in the political, economic, social and cultural fields,

Noting with satisfaction the substantial progress achieved in cooperation between the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies and programmes and the International Organization of la Francophonie,

Convinced that strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie serves the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Considering that the International Organization of la Francophonie brings together a considerable number of States Members of the United Nations, among which it promotes multilateral cooperation in areas of interest to the United Nations,

Noting with appreciation the will shown by the heads of State and Government of countries that use French as a common language at their eighth summit session, held in Moncton, Canada, from 3 to 5 September 1999, to play an active part in resolving the main political and economic problems of the contemporary world and to consolidate the partnership with the United Nations to that end,

[1] A/56/390.

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Notes with satisfaction* the positive evolution and development of cooperation between the two organizations;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the International Organization of la Francophonie for their sustained efforts to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the two organizations, thereby serving their mutual interests in the political, economic, social and cultural fields;

4. *Notes with satisfaction* that the International Organization of la Francophonie is participating more frequently in the work of the United Nations, to which it makes a valuable contribution;

5. *Welcomes* the involvement of the countries that use French as a common language, particularly through the International Organization of la Francophonie, in United Nations activities, including the preparation for, conduct of and follow-up to international conferences organized under United Nations auspices;

6. *Emphasizes* the importance of the steps taken by the International Organization of la Francophonie during the past two years to promote dialogue between cultures and civilizations;

7. *Commends* the International Organization of la Francophonie for its efforts in relation to conflict prevention, management and resolution, the promotion of human rights and the strengthening of democracy and the rule of law, as well as its action in favour of the development of multilateral cooperation among countries with French as a common language, particularly in the areas of economic, social and cultural development, and the promotion of new information technologies, and requests United Nations bodies to give it their support;

8. *Also commends* the high-level meetings held periodically between the secretariats of the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie, and advocates the participation of those secretariats in major meetings of the two organizations;

9. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for including the International Organization of la Francophonie in the periodic meetings he holds with the heads of regional organizations, and invites him to continue to do so, taking into account the role played by the International Organization of la Francophonie in conflict prevention and support for democracy and the rule of law;

10. *Recommends* to the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie that they should continue and intensify their consultations with a view to ensuring greater coordination in the areas of conflict prevention, peace-building, support for the rule of law and democracy and the promotion of human rights;

11. *Notes with satisfaction* the strengthening of collaboration between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie in the area of electoral monitoring and assistance, and advocates the strengthening of cooperation between the two organizations in that area;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations, acting in cooperation with the Secretary-General of the International Organization of la Francophonie, to encourage the holding of periodic meetings between representatives of the United Nations Secretariat and representatives of the

secretariat of the International Organization of la Francophonie in order to promote the exchange of information, coordination of activities and identification of new areas of cooperation;

13. *Invites* the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the International Organization of la Francophonie, to continue to promote cooperation between the two organizations;

14. *Invites* the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations, as well as the regional commissions, including the Economic Commission for Africa, to collaborate to this end with the Secretary-General of the International Organization of la Francophonie by identifying new synergies in favour of development, in particular in the areas of poverty elimination, energy, sustainable development, education, training and the development of new information technologies;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the sub-item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie".

80th plenary meeting
7 December 2001

General Assembly

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18 January 2002

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 21 (*f*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/56/L.35 and Add.1)*]

56/46. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/19 of 8 November 2000, in which it expressed the wish that the cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union be strengthened further,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[1] which takes stock of such cooperation over the last twelve months,

Noting with appreciation the resolutions adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and its activities during the past year in support of the United Nations,

Recalling with satisfaction the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[2] in which Member States resolved to strengthen further cooperation between the United Nations and national parliaments through their world organization, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in various fields, including peace and security, economic and social development, international law and human rights and democracy and gender issues,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General of 26 June 2001,[3]

Taking into consideration the Cooperation Agreement between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union of 1996,[4] which provides the foundation for current cooperation between the two organizations,

Recalling the unique inter-State character of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

1. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts to explore ways in which a new and strengthened relationship may be established between the General Assembly and its subsidiary organs on the one hand and the Inter-Parliamentary Union on the other, and encourages Member States to continue their consultations with a view to adopting a decision thereon during the fifty-seventh session of the Assembly;

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[1] A/56/449.
[2] See resolution 55/2.
[3] A/55/996.
[4] A/51/402, annex.

2. *Also welcomes* the efforts made by the Inter-Parliamentary Union to provide for a greater parliamentary contribution and enhanced support to the United Nations, and calls for the cooperation between the two organizations to be consolidated further;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on the various aspects of cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the sub-item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union".

80th plenary meeting
7 December 2001

General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 January 2002

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 21 (*d*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/56/L.36 and Add.1)*]

56/47. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 37/4 of 22 October 1982, 38/4 of 28 October 1983, 39/7 of 8 November 1984, 40/4 of 25 October 1985, 41/3 of 16 October 1986, 42/4 of 15 October 1987, 43/2 of 17 October 1988, 44/8 of 18 October 1989, 45/9 of 25 October 1990, 46/13 of 28 October 1991, 47/18 of 23 November 1992, 48/24 of 24 November 1993, 49/15 of 15 November 1994, 50/17 of 20 November 1995, 51/18 of 14 November 1996, 52/4 of 22 October 1997, 53/16 of 29 October 1998, 54/7 of 25 October 1999 and 55/9 of 30 October 2000,

Recalling also its resolution 3369 (XXX) of 10 October 1975, by which it decided to invite the Organization of the Islamic Conference to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly and of its subsidiary organs in the capacity of observer,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

Taking into account the desire of both organizations to continue to cooperate closely in the political, economic, social, humanitarian, cultural and scientific fields and in their common search for solutions to global problems, such as questions relating to international peace and security, disarmament, self-determination, decolonization, fundamental human rights and economic and social development,

Recalling the Articles of the Charter of the United Nations that encourage activities through regional cooperation for the promotion of the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Noting the strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations, its funds and programmes and specialized agencies and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, its subsidiary organs and its specialized and affiliated institutions,

Noting also the encouraging progress made in the ten priority areas of cooperation between the two organizations,

[1] A/56/398.

Convinced that the strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system and the Organization of the Islamic Conference and its organs and institutions contributes to the promotion of the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Noting with appreciation the determination of both organizations to strengthen further the existing cooperation by developing specific proposals in the designated priority areas of cooperation, as well as in the political field,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Notes with satisfaction* the active participation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in the work of the United Nations towards the realization of the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations;

3. *Requests* the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference to continue to cooperate in their common search for solutions to global problems, such as questions relating to international peace and security, disarmament, self-determination, decolonization, fundamental human rights, social and economic development and technical cooperation;

4. *Welcomes* the efforts of the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference to continue to strengthen cooperation between the two organizations in areas of common concern and to review the ways and means of enhancing the actual mechanisms of such cooperation;

5. *Welcomes with appreciation* the continuing cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference in the field of peacemaking and preventive diplomacy, and notes the close cooperation between the two organizations in continuing the search for a peaceful and lasting solution to the conflict in Afghanistan;

6. *Welcomes* the efforts of the secretariats of the two organizations to strengthen information exchange, coordination and cooperation between them in areas of mutual interest in the political field and their ongoing consultations with a view to developing the modalities of such cooperation;

7. *Also welcomes* the periodic high-level meetings between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, as well as between senior secretariat officials of the two organizations, and encourages their participation in important meetings of the two organizations;

8. *Recommends* that, in accordance with its resolution 50/17, in order to enhance cooperation and for the purpose of review and appraisal of progress, a general meeting of representatives of the secretariats of the United Nations system and the Organization of the Islamic Conference be held in 2002;

9. *Also recommends* that, in accordance with its resolution 50/17, coordination meetings of focal points of the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and the Organization of the Islamic Conference and its subsidiary organs and specialized and affiliated institutions be held concurrently with the general meeting in 2002;

10. *Encourages* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to continue to expand their cooperation with the subsidiary organs and specialized and affiliated institutions of the Organization of the Islamic

Conference in priority areas of interest to the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference;

11. *Urges* the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system, especially the lead agencies, to provide increased technical and other forms of assistance to the Organization of the Islamic Conference and its subsidiary organs and specialized and affiliated institutions in order to enhance cooperation;

12. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his continued efforts to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system and the Organization of the Islamic Conference and its subsidiary organs and specialized and affiliated institutions to serve the mutual interests of the two organizations in the political, economic, social, humanitarian, cultural and scientific fields;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on the state of cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference;

14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the sub-item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference".

80th plenary meeting
7 December 2001

General Assembly

Distr.: General
23 January 2002

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 21 (*j*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/56/L.37 and Add.1)*]

56/48. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

Bearing in mind the decisions and declarations adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-seventh ordinary session, held in Lusaka from 9 to 11 July 2001,[2] in particular decision AHG/Dec.160 (XXXVII) on the establishment of the African Union on the basis of the Constitutive Act and a period of transition from Organization of African Unity and African Economic Community to African Union, to allow for the creation of the organs of the African Union,

Taking note of declaration AHG/Decl.1 (XXXVII), adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-seventh ordinary session, concerning the adoption of the New African Initiative, now called New Partnership for Africa's Development, following the review by the Implementation Committee of Heads of State and Government in Abuja on 23 October 2001 on sustainable development in Africa,

Recalling the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations and the agreement on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity,[3] as well as all its resolutions on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, including resolutions 54/94 of 8 December 1999 and 55/218 of 21 December 2000,

Taking note of the declarations and decisions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-sixth ordinary session, held in Lomé from 10 to 12 July 2000, in particular declaration AHG/Decl.4 (XXXVI), the Solemn Declaration on the Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa,[4]

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[1] A/56/489.

[2] See A/56/457, annex I.

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 548, No. 614 (Part II).

[4] See A/55/286, annex II.

Emphasizing the importance of the effective, coordinated and integrated implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[5] and welcoming in this regard the commitments of Member States to respond to the special needs of Africa,

Taking note of the Organization of African Unity Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-fifth ordinary session, held in Algiers from 12 to 14 July 1999,[6] and the communiqué issued by the Central Organ of the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution of the Organization of African Unity, at its fifth extraordinary session, at the ministerial level, held in New York on 11 November 2001,[7]

Taking note also of the declaration of the extraordinary summit meeting of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other related infectious diseases, held in Abuja from 24 to 27 April 2001,[8]

Acknowledging the need for continued and closer cooperation between the United Nations and its specialized agencies and the Organization of African Unity and its specialized agencies in the peace and security, political, economic, social, technical, cultural and administrative fields,

Acknowledging also the contribution of the United Nations Liaison Office in strengthening coordination and cooperation between the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations since its establishment in Addis Ababa in April 1998 and the need for its consolidation in order to enhance its performance,

Emphasizing the need to implement the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council of 18 July 2001 on the role of the United Nations in support of the efforts of African countries to achieve sustainable development,[9]

Emphasizing also the need to implement urgently its resolution S-26/2 of 27 June 2001 containing the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, adopted at its special session on HIV/AIDS, and acknowledging in this respect the commitments of Member States to address the special needs of Africa,

Noting the efforts being made by the Organization of African Unity and its specialized agencies and member States in the area of economic integration, and the need to accelerate the process of implementation of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community,[10]

Noting also the progress made by the Organization of African Unity in developing the capacity of its Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, and acknowledging in this regard the assistance of the United Nations and the international community,

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[5] See resolution 55/2.

[6] See A/54/424, annex II, AHG/Dec.132 (XXXV).

[7] See S/2001/1061, annex.

[8] OAU/SPS/ABUJA/3.

[9] A/56/3, chap. III, para. 29. For the final text see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 3*.

[10] A/46/651, annex.

Stressing the urgent need to address the plight of refugees and internally displaced persons in Africa, and noting in this context the efforts made to implement the recommendations of the Organization of African Unity Ministerial Meeting on Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Africa, held in Khartoum on 13 and 14 December 1998,[11] as well as the endorsement by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its seventy-second session of the Comprehensive Implementation Plan, adopted at the Special Meeting of Governmental and Non-Governmental Technical Experts organized by the Organization of African Unity and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Conakry from 27 to 29 March 2000,[12]

Recognizing the importance of developing and maintaining a culture of peace, tolerance and harmonious relationships based on the promotion of economic development, democratic principles, good governance, the rule of law, human rights, social justice and international cooperation,

Recognizing also the need to improve coordination and harmonization among the various United Nations initiatives established to assist the development of Africa,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Welcomes* the cooperation existing between the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations and, in this respect, the continuing participation in and constructive contribution of the Organization of African Unity and its specialized agencies to the work of the United Nations, its organs and specialized agencies, and calls upon the two organizations to enhance the involvement of the Organization of African Unity in all United Nations activities concerning Africa;

3. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General closely to involve the Organization of African Unity and its specialized agencies in the implementation of the commitments contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[5] especially those that relate to meeting the special needs of Africa;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, together with the Organization of African Unity, to take the necessary measures for the speedy and effective implementation of the recommendations of the biennial meeting of the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations, held in Addis Ababa on 10 and 11 April 2000, in particular those priority areas specified in section III of the report of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;[13]

5. *Stresses* the need for closer cooperation and coordination between the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations in the area of peace and security, particularly with regard to conflict prevention, peacekeeping, peace-making, post-conflict reconstruction and peace-building and support for the democratization processes and good governance;

6. *Requests* the United Nations to extend full cooperation and support to the Organization of African Unity in the implementation of the Solemn Declaration on the Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa,[4] an initiative which creates a synergy between the various activities currently

[11] A/54/682, annex II.

[12] A/55/286, annex I, CM/Dec.531 (LXXII), para. 8.

[13] See A/55/498.

undertaken by the Organization of African Unity and provides a policy development forum for the elaboration and advancement of common values within the policy organs of the Organization of African Unity;

7. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations Liaison Office with the Organization of African Unity;

8. *Requests* the United Nations, while acknowledging its primary role in the promotion of international peace and security, to intensify its assistance to the Organization of African Unity in strengthening the institutional and operational capacity of its Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, in particular in the following areas:

(*a*) Development of its early warning system, including the Situation Room of the Conflict Management Centre;

(*b*) Technical assistance and training of civilian and military personnel, including a staff exchange programme;

(*c*) Regular and continued exchange and coordination of information, including between the early warning systems of the two organizations;

(*d*) Provision of assistance to field missions of the Organization of African Unity in its various member States, in particular, in the area of communication and other related logistical support;

(*e*) Mobilization of financial support, including through the trust funds of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity;

9. *Urges* the United Nations to encourage donor countries, in consultation with the Organization of African Unity, to contribute to adequate funding, training and logistical support for African countries in their efforts to enhance their peacekeeping capabilities, with a view to enabling those countries to participate actively in peacekeeping operations within the framework of the United Nations;

10. *Also urges* the United Nations to contribute, where appropriate, to the enhancement of the capacity of the Organization of African Unity to deploy peace support missions;

11. *Requests* the agencies of the United Nations system working in Africa to include in their programmes at the national, subregional and regional levels activities to support African countries in their efforts to enhance regional economic cooperation and integration;

12. *Stresses* the urgent need for the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity to develop close cooperation and concrete programmes, aimed at addressing the problems posed by the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and anti-personnel mines, within the framework of the relevant declarations and resolutions adopted by the two organizations, including the Plan of Action on Landmines, adopted at the First Continental Conference of African Experts on Landmines, held at Kempton Park, South Africa, from 19 to 21 May 1997, the Bamako Declaration of 1 December 2000 on an African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons[14] and the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, adopted by the United Nations

[14] See A/CONF.192/PC/23.

Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in New York from 9 to 20 July 2001;[15]

13. *Welcomes* the intention of the United Nations, set out in section I of the report of the Secretary-General,[1] to review the programme of cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity in order to address the needs of the African Union during the transitional period;

14. *Calls upon* United Nations agencies to continue to cooperate with the Organization of African Unity in order to facilitate the transition from the Organization of African Unity to the African Union, to intensify the coordination of their regional programmes in Africa to ensure the effective harmonization of their programmes with those of the African regional and subregional economic organizations and to contribute to creating a positive environment for economic development and investment;

15. *Welcomes* the leadership efforts of African leaders to develop an African-owned and African-led framework for action towards the sustainable development of the African continent, and calls upon the United Nations system and the international community to support the New Partnership for Africa's Development[2] and the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council,[9] and the enhancement of the capacity of African countries to take advantage of the opportunities offered by globalization and overcome the challenges it poses, as a means of ensuring sustained economic growth and sustainable development;

16. *Encourages* the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity to collaborate closely in the global fight against terrorism and the implementation of the Organization of African Unity Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism[6] and the communiqué issued by the Central Organ of the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution;[7]

17. *Calls upon* the United Nations to support actively the efforts of the Organization of African Unity in urging the donor community and, where appropriate, multilateral institutions to strive to meet the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance, to implement fully, speedily and effectively the enhanced programme of debt relief for the heavily indebted poor countries, and to achieve the goal of securing debt relief in a comprehensive and effective manner in favour of African countries through various national and international measures designed to make their debt sustainable in the long term;

18. *Calls upon* all Member States and regional and international organizations, in particular those of the United Nations system, as well as non-governmental organizations, to provide additional assistance to the Organization of African Unity and those Governments in Africa concerned with the problems of refugees, returnees and displaced persons;

19. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to ensure the effective and equitable representation of African men and women at senior and policy levels at their respective headquarters and in their regional fields of operation;

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[15] See A/CONF.192/15, para. 24.

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.

80th plenary meeting
7 December 2001

General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 January 2002

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 21 (*k*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/56/L.38 and Add.1)*]

56/49. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization

Taking note of the note by the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization,[1]

Taking note also of the report of the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization,[2]

Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the sub-item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization".

80th plenary meeting
7 December 2001

[1] A/56/317.

[2] See A/56/317; see also *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Plenary Meetings*, 77th meeting (A/56/PV.77), and corrigendum.

General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 February 2002

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 85

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/56/547)*]

56/50. Effects of atomic radiation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 913 (X) of 3 December 1955, by which it established the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, and its subsequent resolutions on the subject, including resolution 55/121 of 8 December 2000,[1] in which, inter alia, it requested the Scientific Committee to continue its work,

Taking note with appreciation of the work of the Scientific Committee[2] and of the release of its extensive report, entitled *Hereditary Effects of Radiation. United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation 2001 Report to the General Assembly, with Scientific Annex*,[3]

Reaffirming the desirability of the Scientific Committee continuing its work,

Concerned about the potentially harmful effects on present and future generations resulting from the levels of radiation to which mankind and the environment are exposed,

Noting the views expressed by Member States at its fifty-sixth session with regard to the work of the Scientific Committee,

Conscious of the continuing need to examine and compile information about atomic and ionizing radiation and to analyse its effects on mankind and the environment,

1. *Commends* the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation for the valuable contribution it has been making in the course of the past forty-six years, since its inception, to wider knowledge and understanding of the levels, effects and risks of ionizing radiation, and for fulfilling its original mandate with scientific authority and independence of judgement;

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[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 49* and corrigendum (A/55/49 (vol. I) and Corr.1), sect. III.

[2] Ibid., *Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 46* (A/56/46).

[3] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.01.IX.2.

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work of the Scientific Committee[2] and of the release of its extensive report,[3] which provides the scientific and world community with the Committee's latest evaluations of the hereditary effects of radiation;

3. *Reaffirms* the decision to maintain the present functions and independent role of the Scientific Committee, including its present reporting arrangements;

4. *Requests* the Scientific Committee to continue its work, including its important activities to increase knowledge of the levels, effects and risks of ionizing radiation from all sources, and invites the Scientific Committee to submit its programme of work to the General Assembly;

5. *Endorses* the intentions and plans of the Scientific Committee for its future activities of scientific review and assessment on behalf of the General Assembly;

6. *Requests* the Scientific Committee to continue at its next session the review of the important problems in the field of ionizing radiation and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session;

7. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme to continue providing support for the effective conduct of the work of the Scientific Committee and for the dissemination of its findings to the General Assembly, the scientific community and the public;

8. *Expresses its appreciation* for the assistance rendered to the Scientific Committee by Member States, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and non-governmental organizations, and invites them to increase their cooperation in this field;

9. *Invites* the Scientific Committee to continue its consultations with scientists and experts from interested Member States in the process of preparing its future scientific reports;

10. *Welcomes*, in this context, the readiness of Member States to provide the Scientific Committee with relevant information on the effects of ionizing radiation in affected areas, and invites the Scientific Committee to analyse and give due consideration to such information, particularly in the light of its own findings;

11. *Invites* Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations concerned to provide further relevant data about doses, effects and risks from various sources of radiation, which would greatly help in the preparation of future reports of the Scientific Committee to the General Assembly.

82nd plenary meeting
10 December 2001